

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2007*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Friday, June 22, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 543, "nay"; rollcall 544, "nay"; rollcall 545, "aye"; rollcall 546, "aye"; rollcall 547, "aye"; and rollcall 548, "nay."

## CONGRATULATING THE CHESTNUT LOG MIDDLE SCHOOL READING TEAM

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2007*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great accomplishment by students in my Congressional district. I offer my congratulations to members of the Chestnut Log Middle School Reading Team of Douglasville, GA, for winning the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. This competition was held at the University of Georgia in Athens on April 21, 2007.

Students read from a statewide book list and answered questions from the novels in order to earn points and win the contest. To be eligible for the State competition, Chestnut Log students first won the Douglas County Reading Bowl in February, then a regional competition at West Georgia University in Carrollton in March. In April, they became State champions.

I want to recognize the members and coaches of the Chestnut Log Middle School Reading Team. These individuals are Seth Blair, Isaac Carter, Zachary Fowler, Will Gay, Patrick Ray, and Caroline Wesson. Special recognition goes to coaches Jan Easterwood, Margaret Robbins, and Susan Bissell for their guidance of this team and devotion to fostering good reading habits among youth.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to commend these students for their great accomplishment. As an avid reader, I wish to persuade all of my constituents, no matter young or old, to read and to encourage reading within their communities.

## RECOGNITION OF MARGO PELLEGRINO'S 2,000-MILE JOURNEY FROM MIAMI TO MAINE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2007*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Margo Pellegrino for her remarkable Journey from Miami, FL to Camden, ME. On Monday, May 7, 2007 Margo Pellegrino, a 40-year-old mother of two, with limited training, began paddling her 20-foot outrigger canoe up the Intracoastal Waterway, ICW, and along the Atlantic coast. Her

reason? To highlight the importance of coastal issues up and down the coast.

Ms. Pellegrino's efforts are an inspiration to us all. During her 11 week trip she will make 74 stops along the East Coast in her personal quest to help save our oceans from pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction.

She understands that we need responsible management of our rich coastal resources. Margo Pellegrino is doing her part to ensure that our Nation's coastal beauty can continue to be enjoyed by both present and future generations. She shares my commitment of improving the quality of our coastal environment while enhancing the interests of those who live and work in America's coastal communities. Her efforts will help achieve those goals.

As Ms. Pellegrino paddles her 40 miles a day she has encountered endangered reefs and dredged beaches—problems that she wants to bring to light throughout her journey. One of Margo's major concerns is dwindling fish populations. Overfishing is largely responsible for the rapid decrease in fish populations and has put our oceans in peril.

It is important to note that Ms. Pellegrino is not a professional athlete. She is a mother and an environmentalist who is showing her children how to make a difference in the world and inspire others to take an active role in the stewardship of our oceans.

This week, she paddles along the coast of New Jersey. As she continues her journey up through New England to Maine, I wish her the best. And I once again ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Margo Pellegrino for her exceptional journey from Miami to Maine to bring attention to our coastal environment.

## MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE LIMA CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2007*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay special tribute to the outstanding women of the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The chapter marked its 100th anniversary with a special reception on June 3, 2007.

Chartered on April 10, 1907, the Lima Chapter has served the people of Lima in countless ways through the years. From their work in support of servicemembers and veterans to their committed work with the youth of Allen County, Ohio, the women of the Lima DAR have compiled a long and distinguished record of service in times of war and peace.

Fifty-two women have served the Lima Chapter as Regent, starting with Mrs. Clara Paine Ohler. The chapter's membership through the years has included women from all walks of life who have distinguished themselves in numerous ways through their service.

The Lima DAR is especially noted for its work in local schools to promote civic education, reflecting the group's love of country and its high regard for the gift of freedom that we all enjoy. They are true examples of the DAR's high calling to "cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom."

Madam Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Our Nation is better served through their hard work and diligence. We wish them all the best at their centennial celebration.

## IN TRIBUTE TO FRANCES SWIGART

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2007*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen, community leader, and world traveler of the 4th Congressional District, Frances Swigart. Fran Swigart passed away on June 17, 2007.

Fran served in leadership roles on many non-profit boards: Interchange, UWM Board of Visitors, the Volunteer Center of Greater Milwaukee, League of Women Voters, MATA Community Media, Future Milwaukee, Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin, and the City of Milwaukee Ethics Committee. She was the Executive Director of Future Milwaukee for 9 years, preparing community leaders. Fran was president of the MacMurray College (Jacksonville, IL) Alumni Board, serving two terms.

Fran was a member and leader in the League of Women Voters organization and believed strongly in people's right to exercise their franchise. She proudly served as an election site supervisor for 6 years. Fran facilitated numerous political candidate debates for the League of Women Voters throughout Milwaukee County. She also helped eliminate the bureaucratic barriers that prevented the League of Women Voters from registering new citizens to vote immediately following their swearing in ceremonies. Fran was a candidate for Wisconsin State Representative in the 22nd Assembly District, in 1992. Fran served as a panelist at my "Citizenship Day" events explaining why it was important to register and vote.

In her spare time, Fran loved traveling; in fact, she reached every continent but Australia. She was also a 30-year member of a gourmet cooking group. Fran devotedly served her church, Immanuel Presbyterian, as an elder, deacon, trustee, and mission worker.

Madam Speaker, Milwaukee has suffered a great loss with the passing of Fran Swigart, and we celebrate her life and her many contributions to the life of our community.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill—(H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State,